

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00
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AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
ERDA WASHINGTON
ERDA GERMANTOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0391

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: IAEA, EEC, TECH, CA, MNUC
SUBJECT: EURATOM-CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) EC BRUSSELS 125 (NOTAL); (B) 76 EC BRUSSELS 12661
(NOTAL)

1. THE CANADIAN MISSION HAS INFORMED US THAT PROGRESS WAS
ACHIEVED BY THE CANADIAN TEAM DURING ITS NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE EC JANUARY 12-14 TO STRENGTHEN SAFEGUARDS IN THE 1959
CANADIAN-EURATOM NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT IN CONFORMITY
WITH THE 1974 CANADIAN NUCLEAR EXPORTS POLICY. SOME
PROBLEMS-- FOR EXAMPLE, CANADA SEEKS EXTENSION OF THE
AGREEMENT TO COVER TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY BEYOND
LONDON SUPPLIERS GROUP GUIDELINES -- REMAIN AND THESE COULD
STILL BE OBSTACLES TO CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENT. THE
CANADIAN OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY MATTERS NOTED
THAT CANADIAN AGREEMENTS ARE PENDING WITH JAPAN AND
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SWITZERLAND AS WELL AS WITH THE EC, AND HE HAD THE
IMPRESSION THAT IF ONE WOULD SIGN, THE OTHERS MIGHT
SOON FOLLOW SUIT. AFTER BRUSSELS THE CANADIAN
TEAM IS PROCEEDING DIRECTLY TO SWITZERLAND AND WILL GO
TO JAPAN SHORTLY THEREAFTER. TALKS WITH THE EC ARE
SCHEDULED TO RESUME IN A FEW WEEKS.

2. THE CANADIANS NOTED THAT FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE NECESSARY MINISTERIAL APPROVALS FOR FURTHER CANADIAN NUCLEAR EXPORTS TO THE EC MEMBER STATES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING UNTIL THEIR BILATERAL AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED. THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY AVOID AN OUTRIGHT REJECTION OF ANY LICENSES, HOWEVER. (THE FIRST IMMEDIATE EFFECT WILL PROBABLY BE TO POSTPONE ACTION ON A PENDING LICENSE APPLICATION FOR LATE-JANUARY SHIPMENT OF URANIUM FOR GERMANY, TO BE ENRICHED IN THE USSR.)

3. WHILE THE IMMEDIATE CONCERN OF THE CANADIANS IS THE CONCLUSION OF THE REVISION OF THEIR BILATERAL AGREEMENT, THEY WILL ALSO REQUIRE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE IAEA-EURATOM VERIFICATION AGREEMENT WHICH WILL BE NECESSARY UNDER THEIR REVISED AGREEMENT WITH THE EC. THEY SEEMED CONFIDENT, BASED UPON EC ASSURANCES, THAT SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE IN PLACE BY THE TIME THE EC-CANADIAN AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED.
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